Ranking Category–TRIBAL

Primary Resource Concerns

- Livestock Production Limitation–Inadequate Water
- Degraded Plant Condition–Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Forest, Range, Pasture)
- Degraded Plant Condition–Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Soil Quality Degradation–Organic Matter Depletion
- Soil Quality Degradation–Compaction
- Water Quality Degradation–Nutrients in Groundwater
- Water Quality Degradation–Nutrients in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation–Pesticides in Groundwater
- Water Quality Degradation–Pesticides in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation–Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
- Insufficient Water–Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
- Insufficient Water–Inefficient Moisture Management

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture

Additional Requirements for this Category

- If a Degraded Plant Condition or Livestock Production resource concern will be treated:
    - The unit of concern will be converted to a grazing plan during the life of the contract that will:
        - On range, achieve 50 percent or less use for the year on the key forage species in identified grazing areas.
        - On pasture or hay (crop), meet Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) requirements for regrowth by the end of the growing season.
    - On native range, producer will implement a monitoring system using grazing exclusion cages approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that will verify the degree of use of the key forage species in identified key grazing areas, in the defined or planned grazing system, during the life of the contract.

- <u>The following requirements must be met when addressing Soil Quality Degradation–Organic Matter Depletion and Soil Quality Degradation–Compaction on cropland:</u>
    - Conservation Practice (CP) 328, Conservation Crop Rotation; CP 329, Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed; and CP 340, Cover Crop, are required in the conservation plan and will receive financial assistance if not already established, per program policy.

- <u>The following requirements must be met when addressing Insufficient Water–Inefficient Moisture Management on cropland:</u>
    - CP 328, Conservation Crop Rotation, and CP 329, Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, are required in the

conservation plan and will receive financial assistance if not already established, per program policy.

State Issues

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

    (a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is "Yes," do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is "No," proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)

2. Answer the following question related to resource concerns:

    (a) Unit of concern has at least one of the following resource concerns: Degraded Plant Condition–Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health; Degraded Plant Condition–Excessive Plant Pest Pressure; Water Quality Degradation–Nutrients in Groundwater; Water Quality Degradation–Nutrients in Surface Water; Water Quality Degradation–Pesticides in Groundwater; Water Quality Degradation–Pesticides in Surface Water; and/or Water Quality Degradation–Excessive Sediment in Surface Water. (85 points)

3. If applicable, answer ALL of the following questions related to Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWPT) Ecological Focus Areas. If none apply, leave the answers "NO":

    (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Terrestrial Species Ecological Focus Area and treatment of the resource concern will have a direct habitat benefit to a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the Ecological Focus Area. (10 points)

    (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within an Aquatic Species Ecological Focus Area and treatment of the resource concern will have a direct habitat benefit to a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the Ecological Focus Area. (15 points)

4. Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:

    (a) Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, or other cost–share programs. (5 points)

5. If a Water Quality Degradation resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to nitrate-leaching potential. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

    (a) A HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (60 points)

    (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (40 points)

6. If a Water Quality Degradation resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Potential Soil Loss Index (PSLI). If neither applies, leave the answer “NO”:

    (a) PSLI of HIGH exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (60 points)

    (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH PSLI exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (40 points)

7. If a Water Quality Degradation resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to receiving water bodies. (Receiving water body is defined as permanent water bodies greater than 0.5 acres in size; rivers; streams, including U.S. Geological Survey blue line intermittent streams; and Food Security Act wetlands for which hydrology has not been altered.) If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

    (a) Any part of the unit of concern in located within 180 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with frequent flood frequency. (5 points)

    (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located between 180.1 to 300 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with occasional flood frequency. (2 points)

8. If a Water Quality Degradation resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) identified sensitive groundwater areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

    (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (4 points)

    (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (2 points)

9. If a Water Quality Degradation resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following questions related to drainage into federal reservoirs. If none apply, leave the answer "NO":

    (a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within a priority watershed for sediment runoff as identified in a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) 9 Element Plan. (8 points)

    (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a watershed identified in a WRAPS 9 Element Plan that is a priority watershed with designation other than sediment runoff. (4 points)

10. If a Water Quality Degradation resource concern will be treated, answer EACH of the following four questions related to nutrient management and waste water application:

    (a) The nutrient management plan includes the application of livestock waste that will be applied by injection/subsurface application. (2 points)

    (b) As a part of the nutrient management plan, split nitrogen applications will be implemented for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation, to provide nutrients at the time for maximum crop utilization. (2 points)

    (c) The nutrient management plan includes the application of phosphorous by band applying for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation. (2 points)

    (d) Waste water applied by irrigation will use an approved irrigation scheduling system. (2 points)

11. If a Degraded Plant Condition or Livestock Production resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following questions related to the amount of rest to be provided by your planned grazing system. If none apply, leave the answers "NO":

    (a) The planned grazing system will provide rest for greater than 91 percent of the days during the growing season. (120 points)

    (b) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 90.9 percent and no less than 86 percent of the days during the growing season. (100 points)

    (c) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 85.9 percent and no less than 82 percent of the days during the growing season. (75 points)

    (d) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 81.9 percent and no less than 74 percent of the days during the growing season. (50 points)

(e) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 73.9 percent and no less than 49 percent of the days during the growing season. (30 points)

(f) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 48.9 percent and no less than 30 percent of the days during the growing season. (10 points)

12. If a Degraded Plant Condition or Livestock Production resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following questions related to tamarisk (salt cedar), old world bluestem, or sericea lespedeza infestation. If none apply, leave the answers "NO":

(a) The grazing unit is infested with up to 10 percent of tamarisk (salt cedar), old world bluestem, or sericea lespedeza and the producer will implement a plan to control these species. (15 points)

(b) The grazing unit is infested with no more than 20 percent and no less than 10.1 percent of tamarisk (salt cedar), old world bluestem, or sericea lespedeza and the producer will implement a plan to control these species. (10 points)

(c) The grazing unit is infested with no more than 30 percent and no less than 20.1 percent of tamarisk (salt cedar), old world bluestem, or sericea lespedeza and the producer will implement a plan to control these species. (5 points)

13. If a Degraded Plant Condition or Livestock Production resource concern, answer the following question related to brush infestation:

(a) The grazing unit is infested with an undesirable brush species at the medium woody canopy infestation level as indicated in the NRCS eFOTG for brush management and the producer will implement a plan to control the brush species. (5 points)

Local Issues

Answer the following questions related to the application:

1. Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is "Yes," do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No," proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)

2. Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the FOTG. (40 points)

3. Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (40 points)

4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2016. (40 points)

5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (40 points)

6. Participant has attended (in the past four years) a one-day grazing management workshop. Workshop curriculum must have included any of the following topics: plant physiology, grazing systems and design, range and pasture ecology, grazing and rangeland health, prescribed burning, forage and livestock balance, forage and resource inventory, soil and grazing resource interaction, and wildlife habitat creation/development/improvement through grazing management. (40 points)

7. Participant has attended (in the past four years) a multi-day grazing management school. Workshop curriculum must have included all of the following topics: plant physiology, grazing systems and design, range and pasture ecology, grazing and rangeland health, prescribed burning, forage and livestock balance, forage and resource inventory, soil and grazing resource interaction, and wildlife habitat creation/development/improvement through grazing management. (50 points)